



# What is **Private Fostering?**

**Information for young people  
about Private Fostering**

Are you aged 15 and under and living with a friend's family? Norfolk County Council's Private Fostering team needs to know so we can make sure everything is OK.



**Norfolk County Council**

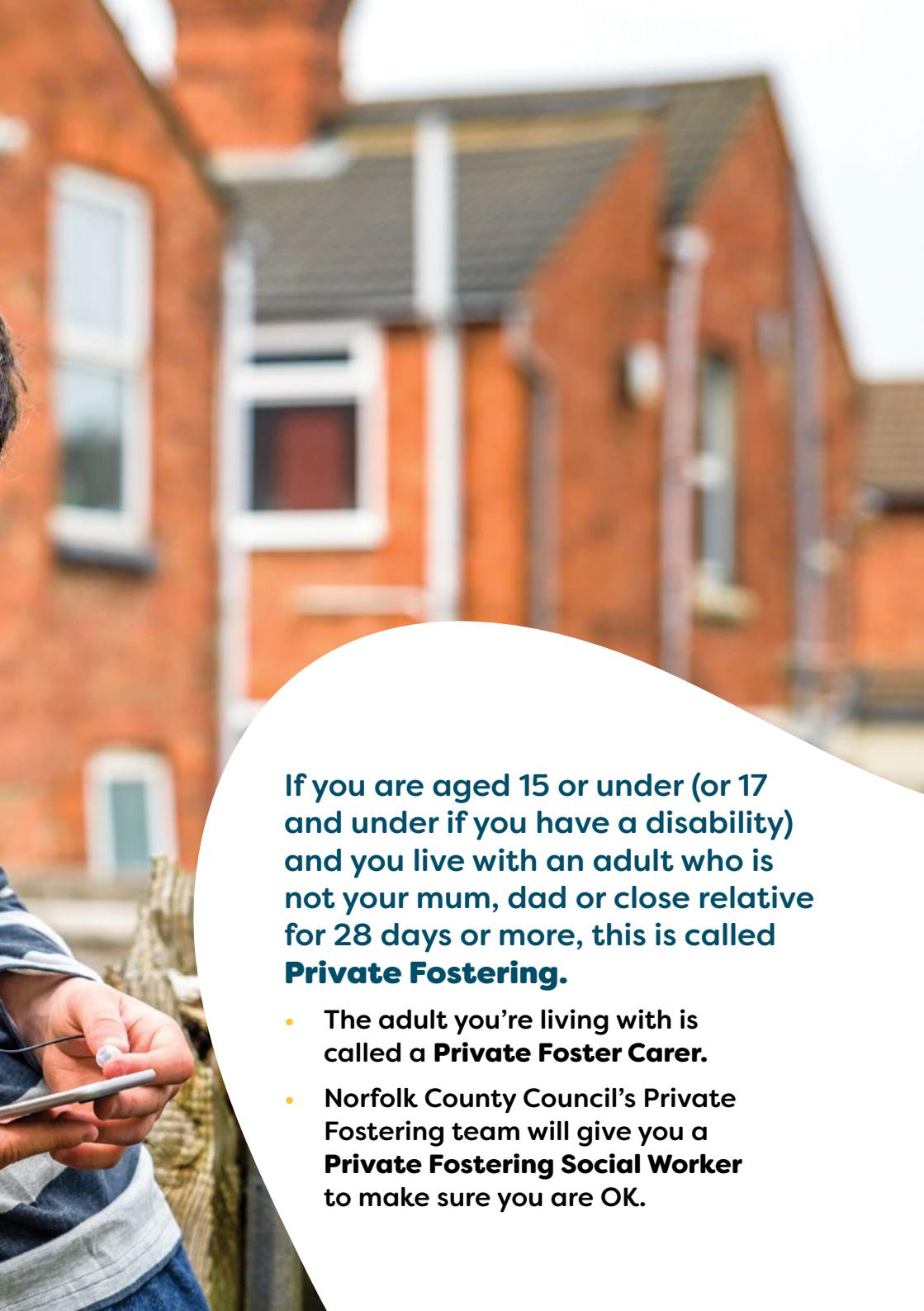


**Norfolk  
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership**

**norfolk  
fostering**

# What is **Private Fostering?**





If you are aged 15 or under (or 17 and under if you have a disability) and you live with an adult who is not your mum, dad or close relative for 28 days or more, this is called **Private Fostering**.

- The adult you're living with is called a **Private Foster Carer**.
- Norfolk County Council's Private Fostering team will give you a **Private Fostering Social Worker** to make sure you are OK.

## Why does Private Fostering happen?

There may be many reasons why your parents or guardian have asked someone else to look after you. Or you might have asked to live somewhere else to give yourself a break. It's not usually a decision that anyone takes lightly.

## Why does Norfolk County Council have to be involved?

By law, when you don't live with your parents or guardian, Norfolk County Council must make sure that you're safe, happy and healthy, and getting all the support you need from the people you are living with.



# What will the Council do?

They will give you a  
**Private Fostering Social Worker.**

They will visit you and your Private Foster Carer to check things are OK. They will also speak to your parents or guardian.

**They will ask you questions like:**

- Do you feel safe where you are living?
- Are you happy in your new home?
- Is this the best arrangement for everyone?
- Are your mum and dad keeping in touch?

After their visit, the Private Fostering Social Worker will write up a report. The report is reviewed by a manager who will decide if the place you are living is best for you.

If there aren't any problems and the manager is happy this is the best living arrangement for you, you can carry on living with your Private Foster Carer. Your Private Fostering Social Worker will visit you every six weeks to make sure everything is still OK. If you want them to visit you more often, just let them know. And if you have any questions about anything, get in touch anytime.



If your Private Fostering Social Worker reports back that where you're living isn't so great, they'll talk to your parents or guardian about finding a different solution, which could involve:

- Going to live with one or both of your parents
- Going to live with another relative such as your grandmother or aunt / uncle.

Your Private Fostering Social Worker can't decide where you live because this is your parent's decision. They will talk to your carer and your parents if there are any problems.

# Changes?

**There are some specific changes that your Private Foster Carer needs to tell the Private Fostering team at Norfolk County Council about immediately. These include:**

- Moving to a new house and a change of address
- Someone moving in or out of your house
- Someone coming to stay regularly
- Anyone living in your house who has got in trouble with the police
- Your Private Foster Carer's financial situation changing, such as losing their job or getting a new one.



## Talk to us

You can call us day or night. If your Private Fostering Social Worker isn't available, someone else on the team will help you.

**Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**  
Call **01603 223628** and ask to speak to the Private Fostering Team.

**Before 9am, after 5pm, at weekends or on Bank Holidays**  
Call **0344 800 8020** and ask for the Emergency Duty Team.



# Need to talk?

Remember if you ever need someone to talk to, you can contact your Social Worker at any time.

Or simply call **0344 800 8020** and ask to speak to the Private Fostering team.

While for information about anything else, simply pop along to

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering)



If you need this document in large print, in audio, Braille, in an alternative format or in another language, please contact customer services on **0344 800 8020** or, for Text Relay, call **18001 0344 800 8020** (text phone) and we will do our best to help you.



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